



For Immediate Release

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Police facilities expand in Zabul

Story by Sgt. Jerry Wilson

ZABUL, Afghanistan- Local Afghan officials announced the opening of a new police facility in Qalat today further increasing the capabilities of the Afghan National Police in Zabul Province. The opening of the new police headquarters was marked by a ribbon cutting ceremony held Tuesday July 20, 2010. On hand to cut the ribbon was the Governor of the Zabul Province, Al-Haj Mohammed Ashraf Naseri.

“This new headquarters is a great asset for Zabul,” Naseri said. “This is just another example of how U.S. and Coalition Forces support our efforts for stability in our country.”

Naseri went on to point out that the ANP and the ANA have been on the frontlines of Afghanistan’s fight for peace. This new headquarters alongside the renovated training center allows the ANP to train more recruits for that effort.

In a renewed display of unity, officials from the Afghan National Army attend the ceremony to show their support of the ANP. Mohammed Shafiq of ANA addressed the crowd about the magnitude of the project and the importance of security for the future of Afghanistan.

Fariq said these types of projects are not easy to accomplish, especially in Zabul due to it being one of the poorer provinces in Afghanistan.

“We need to be thankful to the coalition forces and learn from them how to help ourselves,” Fariq said. “Security is important for Zabul and these forces will not be here to help us forever. We need to support our province in obtaining security and if we do we will have it one day. Someday we will be able to walk around our districts safely.”

“We need to protect and help ourselves by supporting the ANP,” he continued. “I want to thank the Governor for bringing us all together. We must continue to support both him and the ANP. Peace and security is very important. Without it we can do nothing, not even pray. With all we want to do within the province, security is the most important.”

“The new training center can handle 120 to 150 new recruits during one training period,” said Col. Amanullah, the new Afghan National Chief of Police. “We have an 8 week long training program but it can be compressed to 6 weeks if the need arises.”

Amanullah said he wants to do three things during his tenure; enforce discipline among his officers, rid the headquarters of any and all corruption and get out and meet with the people of Zabul. By doing so he hopes to change the perception the local population has of its law enforcement office. As a former inspector general, Amanullah knows the importance of police officers to be seen as a force of law and order and not corruption and extortion.

A major advantage of the new ANP Training Center is it will allow the Zabul Police to develop a recruit, train and assign process for inducting new officers. Until now when an officer is recruited he has been assigned to a station awaiting a slot for training to come open. Once the officer has been assigned, it is very difficult to pull them from the mission to attend the proper training program.

The construction and remodeling of the facilities was a joint project between ANP and Coalition Forces. The new training facility will allow for more officers to be trained in order to increase the security within the Zabul Province.



New Beginnings:

Governor of the Zabul Province, Al-Haj Mohammed Ashraf Naseri cuts the ribbon on the new Police Headquarters building.



Fresh Start:

Governor of the Zabul Province, Al-Haj Mohammed Ashraf Naseri tours the grounds of the new Police Headquarters building near Qalat City.